

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 00046 071424Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 L-02 H-01 /072 W

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R 071343Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1325

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEW, OVIP (ION PATAN), RO

SUBJECT: 1975 MEETING OF US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL
COMMISSION MEETING

1. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING EX-IM BANK PRESIDENT CASEY'S VISIT LAST WEEK, HIS ROMANIAN INTERLOCUTORS REFERRED TO THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION. THEIR ASSUMPTION WAS THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN APRIL, I.E. A YEAR AFTER SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT. SECRETARY DENT'S COUNTERPART, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATAN, IS CLEARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT WILL BE HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE US.

2. ASIDE FROM THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL NEED TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ITSELF, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT WE BEGIN TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF PATAN'S PRESENCE IN THE STATES, GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL ROLE HE HAS JUST ACQUIRED AS ONE OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT BUREAU WHICH PASSES ON ALL IMPORTANT OPERATIVE PARTY AND STATE DECISIONS. I WOULD HOPE BOTH THAT HE COULD REMAIN IN THE STATES FOR

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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 00046 071424Z

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION MEETING AND THAT WE

COULD GIVE HIM EVEN IN A SHORT TIME A GOOD FIRSTHAND
SENSE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN TALKING WITH PATAN ABOUT HIS
VISIT BUT NEED TO HAVE SOME IDEA FIRST OF WASHINGTON
PREFERENCES FOR DATES FOR THE COMMISSION MEETING,
PARTICULARLY OF COURSE IN THE LIGHT OF SECRETARY
DENT'S SCHEDULE. ONE VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MY
JUDGEMENT IS MFN. BOTH PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND REALISTICALLY
I BELIEVE THE COMMISSION MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED
TO TAKE PLACE AFTER MFN HAS BEEN GRANTED. I REALIZE
WE BEGIN ONLY NEXT WEEK THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE
COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AND IT MAY BE WISE TO WAIT TO SEE
HOW THESE GO BEFORE TRYING TO PIN DOWN TOO FIRM A DATE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, BASED ON CALCULATIONS WASHINGTON IS
BETTER ABLE TO MAKE THAN WE OF THE LIKELY TIMING
AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT, PERHAPS
I COULD BE PROVIDED WITH AT LEAST TENTATIVE SUGGESTED
DATES WHICH I COULD USE AS A BASIS FOR INITIAL DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH PATAN.

4. I PLAN TO TIME MY OWN CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON
THIS YEAR TO INCLUDE THE COMMISSION MEETING. ALTHOUGH
IT IS NOT A MAJOR FACTOR, I NOTE THAT THE NEXT SESSION
OF THE US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE
MAY 29-30 AND I WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO
BE IN WASHINGTON FOR BOTH THE COMMISSION AND COUNCIL
SESSIONS.

BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0339
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacmtj.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1975 MEETING OF US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING
TAGS: OVIP, RO, (ION PATAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006